

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS PROVISION TO FUND BLM NEW MEXICO'S PREPARATION OF A NEW CO-DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR OIL AND GAS AND POTASH IN THE SECRETARIAL POTASH AREA OF NEW MEXICO

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, for too long, the number one concern of Americans all across our Nation has been the price and supply of energy. The cost of gasoline at the pump and the cost of natural gas delivered to homes and businesses throughout America have risen to levels that have threatened family pocketbooks and employment for businesses both big and small. Americans are looking for real action that addresses the real problems they are experiencing in the market place—the price and supply of gasoline and natural gas. The answer is to be found, in part, by increasing domestic supply of oil and gas. And we have so much of those resources still untapped—whether in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, in off-shore leases, or on a range of federal properties where the oil and gas resources are already owned by the American people.

Many of these opportunities for increased production of oil and gas on federal lands are admittedly fraught with controversy and caught up in partisan politics. However, the House Interior appropriations bill that we passed on May 18, pursues a supply of 1–2 billion barrels of oil and gas on a federal property that is readily developable, where no environmental impediments exist and where drilling and pipeline infrastructure is so plentiful that the oil and gas can be cost-effectively and quickly delivered into the market.

Particularly, our House Interior Appropriations bill provides an additional \$800,000 to the Bureau of Land Management to develop a new co-development policy to facilitate greater production of both the oil and gas and potash that lies beneath an area known as the Secretarial Potash Area near Carlsbad, New Mexico. There has been some contention between oil and gas producers and the potash industry over how extensive oil and gas production should be in the area. The potash industry has claimed that drilling oil and gas wells variously prohibits recovery of potash deposits by them or creates safety risks to potash miners. The BLM New Mexico State Office has denied many applications for drilling permits (APDs) on the basis of those claims. For their part, the oil and gas leaseholders argue that such claims are baseless and point out that there has never been a safety incident in a potash mine from the oil and gas wells that already exist in the potash area. Additionally, they reference the 500,000 acres that constitute the Secretarial potash area are so vast that in-

creased oil and gas development can be achieved without adversely impacting the potash industry.

Last year, the BLM New Mexico State Director commissioned New Mexico Tech to conduct a thorough geological assessment of the oil and gas potential of the potash area. The State Director briefed congressional staff on the conclusions of the New Mexico Tech study on February 14, 2006. Those conclusions are compelling in terms of the urgent need for more oil and gas in this country. After studying the geologic data in great detail, New Mexico Tech concluded that: “Even considering only the Brushy Canyon and Morrow Formations, a large part of the SPA [Secretarial Potash Area] has significant future oil and gas potential along presently producing trends.” The study further concludes: “The Secretary of Interior’s Potash Area is a prolific oil and gas producing region with significant future reserves. . . . [A]lmost the entire SPA is of interest for future development. . . . These formations . . . consist of extensive sandstones that have demonstrated production characteristics. . . . Horizontal wells have been demonstrated to work with good production, and drilling islands in areas with existing wells are one method of permitting sub-potash development in the future.”

At that same recent briefing for Congressional staff, the BLM New Mexico state director acknowledged that her office has no data to support the claim of safety risks alleged by the potash companies, but expressed a desire to conduct more research on the issue to confidently issue more APDs for oil and gas drilling. The New Mexico State Director also informed congressional staff that she wanted to begin creation of a new co-development resource policy for the Secretarial potash area that would increase oil and gas production while avoiding any legitimate and avoidable adverse impact on current and future potash mining.

The House Interior Appropriations bill provides the BLM Director with additional funding to accomplish the stated objective of creating such a new co-development policy. With BLM already having the full legal authority to create the new co-development policy, BLM can begin action now and does not need to wait even for the enactment of a final Interior Appropriations conference report to commence activity to create the new co-development policy. The only thing now standing in the way of that new policy and oil and gas production is action by the BLM New Mexico office. BLM must understand the seriousness of our intentions underlying this funding provision and the agency must appreciate that we want oil and gas production expedited as a result of this funding and soon. We are watching BLM to see action, and so are the American people.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921.

No sovereign nation can tolerate having its borders invaded, its people shelled and its soldiers kidnapped. America wouldn't, the members of the EU wouldn't, and Israel shouldn't.

Under the circumstances, Israel's response has been measured. Israel clearly has the right to defend its cities and its people from rocket fire, its borders from terrorist tunnels and its military bases from kidnappers.

Hamas and Hezbollah are terrorist organizations. They have no purpose and no aim other than to destroy Israel. For months they have been waging a war against Israel—and Israel has shown restraint. They have lobbed rockets at Israeli targets—and Israel has shown restraint. They have bombed Israel's cities—and Israel has shown restraint. They have sent their suicide bombers—and Israel has shown restraint. There comes a point when Israel can no longer be restrained. It has a right and an obligation to protect its people from attack.

Ironically, these attacks originate in the areas from which Israel withdrew its troops and settlers. Israel left Lebanon in 2000 and disengaged from Gaza last year. Instead of rewarding and encouraging such movement, Hamas and Hezbollah set about arming themselves with increasingly dangerous and potent weapons. We are now seeing the extent to which these terrorist organizations have been fortifying themselves, and it is terrifying. Their weapons are reaching areas of Israel that have never been subjected to rocket fire before. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis are living in bomb shelters or have been evacuated from their homes.

I am pleased to note that the United States and many members of the international community, including the G–8 have supported Israel's right to defend itself. “We demand first that the Israeli soldiers be returned to Israel healthy, that the attacks on Israel cease, and then naturally for Israel to halt military action,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters at the G–8 summit.

Many Arab leaders and opinion molders have also condemned Hezbollah and/or Hamas for their actions. Although he issued the usual condemnations of Israel, Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, also chided Hezbollah's “unexpected, inappropriate and irresponsible acts.” I understand that delegates from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE backed Mr. al-Faisal. In the same vein, the official Saudi Press Agency opined, “A distinction must be made between legitimate resistance and uncalculated adventures undertaken by elements [without] . . . consulting

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and coordinating with Arab nations." Ahmed al-Jarallah, editor of Kuwait's Arab Times, condemned both Hezbollah and Hamas in an editorial on July 15, 2006, writing, "Unfortunately we must admit that in such a war the only way to get rid of 'these irregular phenomena' is what Israel is doing. The operations of Israel in Gaza and Lebanon are in the interest of people of Arab countries and the international community."

I am pleased that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is planning a trip to the region shortly, and hope that she will remain fully engaged. In the meantime, Israel should not be asked to stop its actions as long as Hezbollah and Hamas continue to send missiles toward Israel and to hold Israeli soldiers hostage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall vote 382 on July 19, 2006, because I was unavoidably detained on official business at the White House. Had I been present, I would have cast the following vote: On rollcall No. 382, I would have voted "yea."

#### PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, today I voted against the Pledge Protection Act—H.R. 2389. I believe in the constitutionality of the Pledge and believe that the Pledge should contain the words "under God."

Unfortunately, this bill does more to hurt the Pledge than help it. The bill strips Federal courts of jurisdiction over Federal constitutional claims, leaving the States to each decide issues regarding the Pledge. Some States may strike down the Pledge; others may modify it. The end result would be lasting damage to the Pledge. This is clearly a Federal, constitutional issue.

I realize that, in 2002, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reached a disturbing result by declaring that it was an unconstitutional establishment of religion to have students recite the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The U.S. Supreme Court overruled the ninth circuit on procedural grounds in 2004. Unfortunately, there was no clear opinion overruling the ninth circuit on substantive grounds.

The ninth circuit's ruling has created confusion as to whether the decision must be followed within the boundaries of the circuit. At least one Federal district court in California

has since ruled that it must. That case is on appeal now to the ninth circuit, and hopefully it will make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court for a reversal.

#### COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MISSION

SPEECH OF

### HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend congratulations to NASA and the Shuttle program for the successful STS-121 mission on Space Shuttle *Discovery*. On July 4th, I watched with pride as the NASA performed a successful launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, a fitting tribute to NASA, our brave astronauts, and our incredible space program.

STS-121 successfully confirmed the Space Shuttle safety improvements, including the redesigned External Tank foam insulation, the heat shield, and improved imagery during launch. STS-121 also successfully supplied the International Space Station with more than 28,000 pounds of much-needed equipment and supplies.

Our amazing astronauts also gave us earth-bound admirers three awe-inspiring spacewalks. My hearty congratulations go to the entire *Discovery* crew—Commander Steven Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Michael Fossum, Lisa Nowak, Piers Sellers, and Stephanie Wilson.

With the completion of the flawless 13-day mission of STS-121 on Space Shuttle *Discovery*, NASA proved that both its Space Shuttle program and the International Space Station program are once again on firm footing. Americans can be confident that NASA's goal of completing the construction of the space station will be realized.

And this confidence-building mission comes at the right time, since the most complicated space assembly mission that has ever been scheduled in human space flight will happen in only a month and a half. Starting in August, NASA will launch a series of missions to finish the backbone of the International Space Station. These shuttle missions will be the most complex since the Apollo program.

These are great challenges for NASA, but America's space agency continues to prove that it is up to the job. I have complete confidence that NASA will be successful with the remaining 15 Shuttle missions to complete the space station before the shuttle's retirement in 2010.

Our Space Shuttle program has proven that it is on track to completing its remaining missions and NASA is on track to continue the manned space program, including the return of Americans to the surface of the Moon.

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

### HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article written by my constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA. A son of Polish Holocaust survivors, he grew up in Haifa, Israel. He is past President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. The article reads as follows:

Once more I felt in the pit of my stomach that gnawing sense of emptiness born of disbelief and grave concern, which after all is a defense mechanism, experienced during past wars and crises. My phone calls to my family in Haifa, Israel have increased from Fridays to wish them a "Shabbat Shalom" to daily contacts of empathy and support.

My beautiful coastal Haifa, Israel's third largest city, has become a deliberate target with rockets landing on Mt. Carmel, not far from my sisters' homes and my parents' residence where I was raised. My very pregnant niece was emotionally affected and temporarily left to Tel Aviv for psychological stability. Speaking to my mom, who along with father are Polish Holocaust survivors, conveyed her definite heightened anxiety as she faced one more challenge after already much trauma, including Israel's previous wars and ongoing tensions since arriving there in 1949. I've also been in touch with Lebanese friends in Virginia Beach. They too are affected by the disconcerting events.

The eruption of hostilities this time followed attacks and kidnappings by Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north, instigated by the true powers to be in Iran and Syria, and lengthy rockets' firing at Israeli towns within range from Gaza. It thus forced Israel's government to send a loud message to those who are obstacles to the future of peace, a pre-condition to Israel's very viability and survival in a restive region of critical strategic importance. No state would allow disruption to its citizens' lives on a scale tolerated so long by Israel. Particularly for a small country albeit with a capable military, such unacceptable scenario becomes debilitating.

The threat from radical Islam seeking to create a Middle East a la its rejectionist ideology, sans Israel and Western influence, also aims at destabilizing moderate Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan which signed peace treaties with Israel. Without a countervailing strong Iraq, Iran is now positioned for hegemony to restore its historic preeminence and emerge a global Muslim leader. It attempts to acquire nuclear power as a step in this envisioned goal while led by an irresponsible president who openly denies the Holocaust and calls for Israel's elimination. The Palestinian Authority as well as Lebanon stand to benefit from Israel's actions for their own future is held hostage by their extremists. Israel's response is supportive of America's heroic efforts to confront terrorism world-wide, painfully introducing democracy to a liberated Iraq, even though democracy's Arab enemies subvert fledgling democracies from within. Fighting terrorists is hampered by their planting themselves among civilians to take advantage of democratic nations' reluctance to retaliate at random. But terrorists underestimate the will of free nations to ultimately fight back in spite of limitations with inevitable and regrettable losses of life and property. Tragic indeed has been Lebanon's lot